(c) and (d) Export promotion is a continuous and sustained process. However, for improving the growth of exports taking into account the country's strengths and potential, a medium term export startegy is being prepared by the Ministry for achieving an export level of US$ 75—90 billion by 2002, and to achieve 1% share in world exports (as compared to the present level of 0.6%). The strategy would include, interalia, diversification of the export basket, deepening of India's presence in the existing markets, identifying a new set of products for exports and increasing the production base, institutional supports etc.

पुराने रेडियल टायरों के आयात का रबड़ के उपयोग पर प्रभाव

1431. **श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी :** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने पुराने रेडियल टायरों के आयता करने की अनुमति दिए जाने कर रबर के उपयोग पर पड़ने वाले प्रभाव का अध्ययन कराया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या परिणाम निकले; और

(ग) रबड़ उत्पादकों के हितों की रक्षा के लिए क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बोल्ला बुल्ली रमैया) : (क) से (ग) जी, नहीं। 31.3.1997 को घोषित चालू आयात एंव निर्यात नीति के तहत उपयोग किए गए टायरों के मुक्त रूप से आयात करने की अनुमति दी गई है। तथापि, उपयोग किए गए टायरों के मुक्त रूप से आयात किए जाने के खिलाफ प्रतिवदेन प्राप्त हुए है और इस सबंध में जब भी कोई निर्णय होगा, अधिसूचना के जरिए सूचित कर दिया जाएगा।

ग्रेनाइट के कच्चे माल के निर्यात को प्रोत्साहन देने की नीति

1432. **श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी :** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने ग्रेनाइट के कच्चे माल के निर्यात को प्रोत्साहन देने की नीति की समीक्षा की है जिसके परिणामस्वरूप तैयार ग्रेनाइट वस्तुओं का निर्यात करने वाली इकाइंया बदं हो चुकी हैं, और

(ख) क्या इस मामले पर पुनर्विचार किया जा रहा है?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बोल्ला बुल्ली रमैया) : (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Packaging of Indian Tea in Russia

1433. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of Indian tea to Russia is likely to be hit hard as a result of steep hike in duty on imported packaged tea by Russian Government;

(b) whether the Indian Government propose to undertake the packaging of the Indian tea in Russia itself to reduce the cost of export of Indian tea to Russia; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) The increase in duty is likely to affect packet tea imports into Russia from major exporting countries including India.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Export of Gold Jewellery

1434. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of gold jewellery exported from the country during each of the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that exports of gold jewellery from the country have virtually come to a standstill in recent months; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and steps taken to remove the hurdles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) The value of gold jewellery exported from India during each of the last three years is given below:

Years	(US $ Million) Value
1994-95	421.20
1995-96	480.40
1996-97	511.80

(Source : DGCI&S)

(b) No, Sir. The exports of gold jewel lery during the period April-June'97 vis a-vis April-June'96 are as follows:

	(US $ Million)
April-June'97 (Pro.)	156.23
April-June'96	146.97

(Source: GJEPC, Mumbai)

(c) Does not arise. Gold jewellery has been indentified by the Government of India as an Extreme Focus Product and is a thrust area of our exports. Accordingly, the Government has taken a number of steps to boost exports from this sector during 1997-98 which include: (i) in order to increase the supply of gold, RBI has been authorised to nominate more agen cies for the import and supply of precious metals. The criteria which is required to be fulfilled by the nominated agencies has also been finalised by the RBI; (ii) third party exports have been allowed in order to encourage small exporters; (iii) value addition norms have been further sim plified; and (iv) the period for the fulfil ment of export obligation has been suit ably increased.

Service Charges for Import of Wheat by STC

1435. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether STC has been charging about Rs. 75/- per tonne as service charges for importing wheat while the charge for importing urea by STC is only Rs. 17/- per tonne.

(b) if so, the terms and conditions fixed for import of -wheat by STC and the names of the countries from where wheat is being imported;

(c) whether STC has been given the sole right to import wheat; if not, whether other import agencies such as MMTC were also contacted to compare the charges for import; and

(d) details of guidelines fixed by the Administrative staff College, Hyderabad regarding overhead cost/charges levied by STC and follow up action thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STAT : OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) STC has been advised by the Government to arrange, import of wheat, for being handed over to FCI for PDS distribution. In the process, STC finalises import contracts, arranges Vessel fixtures, import financing, execution of the contracts and settlement of post-shipment and arrival matters with sellers, ships, surveyors, FCI, Insurers etc. The present imports of wheat have been entrusted to STC only,, which is being imported from Australia, Canada & Argentina.

(d) The Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad had recommended pay-ment of STC's overheads in proportion to sales plus interest on capital employed and in addition 0.5% of CIF value as service charge in respect of imports of edible oil and sugar by the Government. These recommendations were accepted by the Govt, and as such the payments of service charge accordingly. However, in regard to import of surgar during 1994-95, Ministry of Finance decided for payment of 1.20% of CIF value to STC as service charge, which was paid by FCI. The same rate of service charge as for sugar has been mutually agreed to between FCI and STC for wheat imports.